

DC Gazette

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THE UNREPORTED DANGERS OF SATELLITES

*The Latino Minority:
Soon the biggest?*

THE CITY:

Politics, Metro, Trouble at UDC, Hazards of Lead



WHAT THEY DON'T TELL YOU ABOUT SATELLITES

ERNEST J. STERNGLASS

WHILE the January 24 crash of Cosmos 954 unleashed international shockwaves, it brought sighs of relief to the Pentagon scientists who had tracked the flawed satellite since the Soviets launched it September 18.

The fear that had so obsessed the US skywatchers was simple: what would happen if the nuclear-powered satellite smashed into Chicago, Denver or Los Angeles? Although it was loaded with some 100 pounds of highly enriched uranium, there was no certainty that the on-board reactor's failsafe design would prevent it from exploding on impact as an atomic bomb.

Explosions aside, the consequences could still have been devastating had the reactor not disintegrated in the atmosphere. Intense gamma radiation from such fission products as Cesium 137 could have produced lethal

Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass is a professor of radiological physics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Radiology. He is author of the book Low Level Radiation (Ballantine).



doses within hours. Air, water and farming areas would have been contaminated with Iodine 131, Strontium 89 and Strontium 90 released from the broken reactor.

Depending on meteorological conditions and based on the sharp increases in leukemia and cancer rates all over Japan following the detonation of two bombs in 1945, cancer rates could have jumped between 100 and 1000 per cent with comparable increases in infant mortality, birth defects and other chronic diseases in the immediate area.

Massive population evacuations and the sealing of food and water supplies would have been the only possible counter-measures. The long-term consequences from the release of such uranium products could well have led to as many as tens of thousands of deaths from lung cancer and other causes — approaching the numbers calculated in the original Brookhaven study of the effects of a possible nuclear power plant accident near New York City.

Because the potential for a major disaster was too frightening for public discussion, and because it might help to turn the people of the world against all forms of nuclear energy, both the US government and the Soviets decided to keep the story quiet. If neither an explosion nor widespread human contamination occurred, they gambled, public hysteria and alarm could be avoided and the whole matter passed over lightly.

And that is exactly what happened. Fortunately, the satellite re-entered the atmosphere over a sparsely populated area of the world. Fortunately, it did not survive re-entry in a compact form that might have led to a nuclear explosion upon impact. And fortunately, it appears to have largely vaporized, allowing only some small fraction of the highly radioactive debris to contaminate the ground.

Thus, a spokesman for the Soviet government was able to reassure the public a few days after the crash: "Soviet and American designers build spacecraft in such a way as to avoid disaster under any circumstances,"

2.

Adding that "complete safety was a basic law for all those who build nuclear devices."

Yet we now know that these statements were outright deceptions, and that the claim of "complete safety" was false. Site measurements have revealed that sizeable quantities of radioactive debris did in fact reach the ground over an area hundreds of miles long.

Statements by spokesmen from both nations implied that so long as the reactor "burned up" in the atmosphere, it would disappear and present no hazard. In fact, as the uranium and fission products did vaporize into the atmosphere they were transformed into the finely divided form of insoluble oxides, well known to be the most hazardous chemical form for the production of lung cancer.

Neither did the Soviet government spokesman ever mention Strontium 90, the most important of all the fission products created during the operation of this marvel of nuclear engineering.

Neither the Soviets nor the U.S. government spokesmen ever mentioned the fact that the total amount of biologically serious radioactivity released in the satellite crash to the world's air, water, food and milk equals that of the detonation of about 10 modern atomic weapons.

Nor has any of them mentioned that animal studies at the University of Rochester carried out over a period of nearly 10 years showed that even the less toxic natural uranium, when released as fine oxide dust, was found to induce a startlingly high numbers of lung cancers seven to 10 years after very low concentrations of this material were inhaled by dogs.

Fortunately for all government leaders, lung cancers, congenital defects and rises in other chronic diseases many years later cannot be readily traced to a given "nuclear incident." And so, for nearly a generation, all the governments of the world have been able to deceive their own people as to the true nature of the biological hazards in the name of national security.

Convinced of the absolute necessity of nuclear weapons, nuclear submarine reactors, nuclear spy satellites and nuclear power plants, government scientists throughout the world have been able to convince their political leaders that the hazards of low-level radiation exposures were negligible.

The result has been that no study into the effects of small, continued exposures to radiation of the general population was ever funded and carried out by responsible government agencies. Instead, the military and the nuclear bureaucracies in every major nation have successfully diverted attention

from the problem of low-level radioactive contamination.

Yet the latest studies of Drs. Thomas Mancuso, Alice Stewart and George Kneale on the effects of very low doses of radiation at the Hanford atomic laboratories, where plutonium was first produced for nuclear weapons, have shown that radiation caused some 20 to 50 times more cancer than had been expected. When these investigators made this discovery, the government agencies that had originally sponsored it ended the funding and tried to prevent or delay its publication, and finally asked for the original data to be returned by the sci-

entists who had made the unwanted discovery.

Suppression of research into the effects of low level radiation is one of several items in a current series of hearings before the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. Even such limited public discussion of civilian nuclear issues stands in stark contrast to the absolute secrecy surrounding military uses of nuclear power -- secrecy which leaves us in ignorance even of how many nuclear-powered satellites are orbiting the globe.

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ROADSIGNS

A ROUNDUP OF STATISTICS, FACTS AND SURVEYS OF INTEREST TO THE ACTIVIST (Sources in parentheses)

AFTER DECLINING IN 1975, pot arrests shot up in 1976. 441,000 persons were busted nationwide. In 1970, fewer than half of all drug-related arrests involved pot; in 1976, 72% involved pot. (NORML)

o o o o

A STUDY BY Brown University researchers finds that while six-member juries find about the same proportion of defendants guilty as those with 12-members, the smaller juries often settle for a lesser charge. (ZNS)

o o o o

A STUDY OF 4,800 pregnancies in Seattle shows that abortions seem to have no effect on future birth rates or health of children subsequently born (New England Journal of Medicine)

o o o o

SUICIDES BY WOMEN increased 73 percent between 1960 and 1975; suicides for men went up only 42% during the same period. (National Center for Health Statistics)

o o o o

A GALLUP survey finds that at least 40% of whites, women, high school and college graduates, and residents of towns with populations of 50,000 or less described themselves as very happy. Those with only a grade school education showed the lowest level of satisfaction followed by singles and non-whites. (Gallup)

o o o o

WOMEN MAKE UP 42% of the nation's labor force, but receive only 25% of total earned wages. Median male weekly income is \$253; for a woman it's \$156. (Dept. of Labor)

o o o o

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says that damage claims filed in connection with the government's swine flu program will exceed \$2 billion.

o o o o

MORE THAN NINETY PERCENT OF married Catholics now use contraceptives forbidden by their church according to a national fertility study. A similar study in the fifties found that only 20 percent of Catholic couples used birth control devices then. (ZNS)

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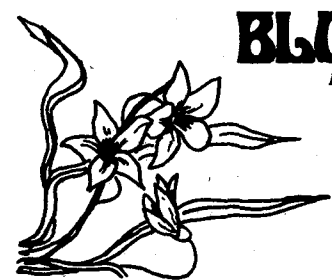
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APPLE PIE

An American Report

THE International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm is warning that the world's super-powers are racing to perfect two new explosive weapons that would completely bridge the gap that currently divides so-called conventional weapons and nuclear weapons.

Doctor Frank Barnaby of the institute identifies these weapons as the neutron bomb and another less-publicized type of weapon known as the "Fuel Air Explosive." This latter bomb, Barnaby says, works on the principle of creating a large, highly-explosive gas cloud in the air, and then igniting that cloud in a fiery explosion.

Barnaby says that the two weapons are being designed for the

destructive range which - until now - has divided nuclear and non-nuclear weapons. He says that with this gap no longer present, it will become more likely for one side or the other to escalate a conflict into the nuclear range.

WISCONSIN Senator William Proxmire gave his "Golden Fleece of the Month" award for January to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for that agency's attempt to produce a space-aged police car of the future.

Proxmire says that the federal agency spent \$2 million on a prototype patrol car that ended up as "an earthbound space ship on wheels."

Here's the way Senator Proxmire describes it: "A policeman who was thrust behind the wheel of this 'wonder car' would have a lot on his mind besides crime prevention and law enforcement. In addition to driving the vehicle. . .he would have to worry about his multiple spark discharge ignition system while grasping his hand-held voice/digital terminal while reading his heads-up display while listening to his audio recorder while looking at his wide-angle periscope rearview mirror.

"If this didn't keep our beleaguered patrolman busy enough," the Senator continues, "he would be further occupied by the need to check out his tire sensor, his brake wear sensor, his catalytic converter/exhaust temperature sensor, and seven different condition sensors.

"On top of this, he would have to be concerned about keeping tabs on his carbon monoxide monitor, using his voice/digital transceivers, and operating his micro computer mass memory, while at the same time keeping a watchful eye on his digital cassette reader and his keyboard."

A FIFTH-GRADE pupil in Seattle gave this description in a homework paper: "The human body is composed of three parts: the Branium, the Borax and the Abominable Cavity. The Branium contains the Brain. The Borax contains the lungs, the liver and the living things. The Abominable Cavity contains the bowels, of which there are five: A,E,I,O, and U."

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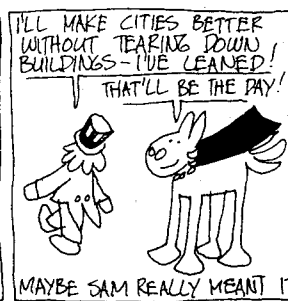
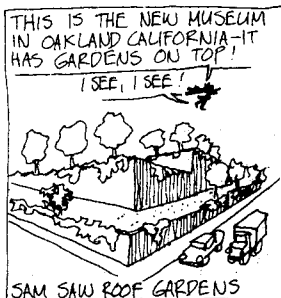
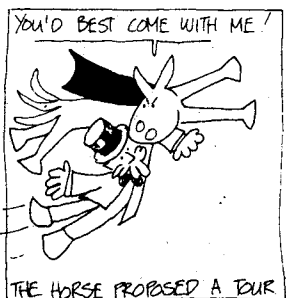
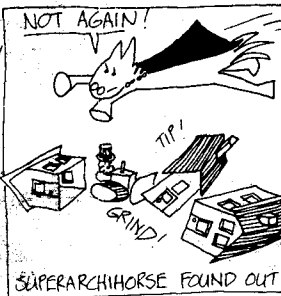
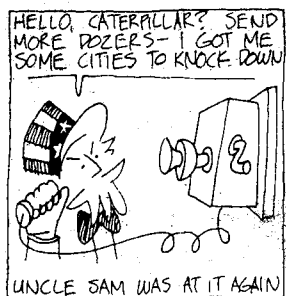


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MEXICO IS SLIPPING.

The United States Geodetic Survey reports that more than 12 feet of Mexico has slid northward into Southern California during the past one-third of a century. The average rate of movement has been 4.5 inches per year, the survey says.

American government scientists are warning that the slow slippage is caused by the strain put on California's San Andreas fault.

THE WASHINGTON MONTHLY reports that despite the 1976 passage of the Sunshine Act, there still isn't much sunshine in the halls of Congress.

The Sunshine Act was passed to open up government agency meetings to the public. A recent study by the Library of Congress, *The Monthly* says, shows that of the 1003 government meetings listed in the Federal Register between March and September of last year, 627 were either completely or partially closed to the public.

What's so secret? The magazine says that an example of one of the

meetings held behind closed doors was the Federal Reserve Board's parlay over the possible designs of its new office furniture.

The *Monthly* reports the meeting was closed because - in the words of the FED - "Matters of sensitive financial nature were being considered by the Board."

IT WAS in October of 1973 - more than four years ago - that Oregon became the first US state to decriminalize marijuana.

At that time, many opponents of lenient pot laws warned that Oregon would become a haven for dope-smokers, and that vast numbers of people would get hooked on the weed.

That has not been the case, however: the Washington-based Drug Abuse Council reports that after four years of a liberalized pot law, Oregon's marijuana habits seem to have remained relatively unchanged.

According to the Council's most recent study, there has been a mere 6 percent rise in marijuana

use since pot was decriminalized in 1973. The non-profit Council reports that only 25 percent of persons over the age of 18 in Oregon report that they have tried smoking pot at least once.

A UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN Colorado graduate has written to Colorado governor Dick Lamm asking him to revoke his degree because it has caused blue collar employers to discriminate against him.

Denverite James Conklin, a 1972 graduate, wrote that "when better paying blue-collar employers learn of my background they refuse to accept my application."

Conklin said his potential to make a reasonable livelihood "has been greatly reduced" because of his degree. The letter asks Lamm for a "full and unconditional pardon."

FROM EDWARD P. MORGAN'S RADIO PROGRAM: "A little known incident . . . may add substance to the speculation that if Hubert Humphrey could only have been his own man he might well have beaten Nixon, with Vietnam as a cutting issue.

"After (Humphrey) became the presidential nominee at Chicago, pressures mounted on him to declare his own Vietnam policy - which would be to end the war. First (he) didn't move, at least outwardly. Then in the early fall he scheduled a nationwide radio-TV address. . . to reveal his policy on the war. . . It was too equivocal. I was deeply disappointed, even resentful. What I didn't know until years later was this:

"For some quirky reason, LBJ refused to speak directly to Humphrey but kept tabs on the campaign, in part, through Dwayne Andreas, a rich industrialist and close friend of Humphrey who was with him much of the time. The President had seen the proposed draft of the Vice President's speech. He called Andreas. "Dwayne," he said, "you tell that so-and-so if he delivers that speech

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I'll be on all the networks 40 minutes later and read a telegram from General Abrams, declaring it would prolong the war and increase our casualties enormously."

ONE REASON WE shy away from utopian visions is that it always seemed to us that utopians didn't have much fun. This has been confirmed by a magazine we recently received from a utopian community in California, which ran the following notice on the backpage:

"Kerista Village is in the midst of a mini-crisis. The crux of the problem is that Utopian humor (in the form of good jokes) is not that easy to come by. Consequently, the Utopians of Kerista Village have lately been forced into re-runs

of those old jokes they find funny. The result is that these jokes are not so funny any more. Nothing is worse than an old joke warmed over for the fifth time in one week. All readily available known joke resources have been depleted. (Leo Rosten's 'The Joys of Yiddish' was quite a rich lode). The next-to-latest strategy has been to have Sym, Dig, and Val, the community's cab drivers, pump all their taxi cab customers for good jokes. The latest strategy, if you haven't already guessed it, is to pump our readers for good jokes."

So if you would like to help those sad utopians, send a joke to them at Kerista Village Joke Dept., PO Box 1174, San Francisco, CA 94101.

called the "Stench Tones." They have just released their first Stink Rock single, "Making Stinking Legal." Said one member of the group, "The band is tired of hiding our feelings. Why can't we just say out loud, 'We stink?'" A Conservative member of Parliament has told the magazine Melody Maker that "I've not actually heard the group, but I think they should be banned."

The trade publication Cash Box reports that the quality of record albums made and sold in the US is inferior to those made in Europe and most of the rest of the world. Record makers here blame mass production for the poor quality. A Cashbox survey of record stores found more returned defectives last Christmas than during any similar period in the past. One record company president told Cashbox that the quality of US records is "inconsistent, and the lowest in the world next to Mexico, China and Turkey." There have, however, been some improvements in recent months.

A Minnesota state senator who is an entertainer on the side has introduced a bill to ban the use of electric drums and similar automatic percussion instruments in the state. Collin Peterson proposed the bill because he wants to save jobs for human drummers. Unfortunately, however, the bill refers to drums as "rhythm units." It seems the bill is hung up in the health committee because fellow legislators thought rhythm units had something to do with birth control.

SHOW BUSINESS

GM EXECUTIVES confirm they have worked out an arrangement with the Detroit News whereby the computer tapes used to set the News' copy each day are also read - a day later - by a General Motors computer.

GM's computer reportedly scans for about 1000 key words or phrases such as "exhaust pollution;" "nuclear power;" "oil;" "coal;" "solar energy;" and "grain supplies."

Each topic is then analyzed by the machine to see how much space it is receiving in the newspaper and if the coverage is positive or negative.

GM says it believes it will be able to spot trends and topics consumers are interested in, sometimes long before the importance of such trends becomes obvious to human observers.

Just for the record, in January 1977 the National Enquirer predicted that Freddie Prinze would become the father of twins, Elvis Presley would undergo delicate eye surgery, Andy Williams and Ethel Kennedy would get married and the Pope would intercede in the fighting in Northern Ireland.

Speaking of Elvis, the Reverend

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	—	—	June 6	June 28	June 6	July 5
	June 13	June 28	June 13	July 5	—	—
\$364*	June 19	July 3	June 19	July 10	June 19	July 17
	June 26	July 10	June 26	July 17	June 26	July 24
	July 3	July 17	July 3	July 24	July 3	July 31
	July 10	July 24	July 10	July 31	July 10	Aug 7
	July 17	July 31	July 17	Aug 7	July 17	Aug 14
	July 24	Aug 7	July 24	Aug 14	July 24	Aug 21
	July 31	Aug 14	July 31	Aug 21	July 31	Aug 28
\$339*	Aug 7	Aug 21	Aug 7	Aug 28	Aug 7	Sept 4
	Aug 14	Aug 28	Aug 14	Sept 4	Aug 14	Sept 11
	Aug 21	Sept 4	Aug 21	Sept 11	Aug 21	Sept 18
\$329*	Aug 28	Sept 11	Aug 28	Sept 18	Aug 28	Sept 25
	Sept 4	Sept 18	Sept 4	Sept 25	Sept 4	Oct 2
	Sept 11	Sept 25	Sept 11	Oct 2	—	—
\$289*	Sept 18	Oct 2	—	—	—	—
	Sept 19	Oct 4	Sept 19	Oct 10	—	—
	Sept 26	Oct 10	—	—	—	—
\$279*	Sept 26	Oct 4	(one week)	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
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July 3—Aug 16		June 26—Aug 16		June 17—Aug 14		June 19—Sept 18
		July 3—Aug 22		June 26—Aug 22		June 26—Sept 25
						July 3—Oct 2

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\$329*	June 12	June 26	June 5	June 26	June 5	July 4
	—	—	June 12	July 4	—	—
	—	—	June 27	July 19	—	—
\$339*	—	—	July 11	Aug 2	July 11	Aug 9
	July 18	Aug 2	July 18	Aug 9	—	—
	Aug 1	Aug 16	—	—	Aug 1	Aug 30
	Aug 8	Aug 16	Aug 8	Aug 30	—	—
	(one week)	—	—	—	—	—
\$329*	Aug 29	Sept 20	Aug 29	Sept 27	—	—
	Sept 5	Sept 20	Sept 5	Sept 27	—	—
\$289*	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sept 26	Oct 10	—	—	—	—

WOMEN & MEN

ADVERTISING AGE magazine reports that condom sales in the US are beginning to expand rapidly, and that the people most responsible for pushing sales to new heights are women, because of increasing concern over the safety of birth control pills and the IUD.

Advertising Age reports that, as a result, many "rubber" companies are featuring advertisements which stress health safety, and that women particularly will increase their enjoyment of sex, if the right condom is used.

As an example, two advertisements by Trojan, which claims to be the number one in condom sales in drug stores, feature a picture of a woman with the ad copy "Trojan ribbed. . . You'll never feel better."

NEARLY one thousand federal prisoners housed at Terre Haute, Indiana, and Atlanta, Georgia, have petitioned to be allowed to have "private visitations" - including sexual relations with their wives and other "consenting female adults."

Conjugal relations and private visitations are now currently forbidden at all US federal prisons. They are permitted by several states and by a number of foreign governments.

In petitions sent to the US Bureau of Prisons, the Congress, President Carter, and the Congressional Black Caucus, the inmates stated that the policy of preventing men from having private visitations with their wives has a shattering impact on the sanctity of the marriage, and is emotionally devastating both for the prisoners and wives.

Many of the inmates signing the petition claim to have been victims of the FBI's "cointelpro" program against black activists. It charges that refusing conjugal privileges is just another way in which the United States government is fostering the destruction of the black family.

Currently three state prison systems in Mississippi, New York and California do grant limited conjugal visitation rights to their inmates.

A STANFORD UNIVERSITY economist claims that one of the big-

gest factors behind the rising divorce rate is the birth control pill and other contraceptions.

Associate Professor Robert Michael says that prior to the pill, young couples had a 75 percent chance of the woman becoming pregnant within the first 10 years of marriage, even if they didn't want children.

As a result, women were reluctant to invest much time in a career, because they might eventually have to interrupt it if they became pregnant.

With the pill, however, Michael says women have less than a 10 percent chance of getting pregnant and fell, therefore, free to pursue long-term careers.

The professor adds that as women become more attached to their careers and have less children, the financial risk of divorce has lowered.

Michael says that since 1966, women in their 20's have comprised over 60 percent of all women seeking divorces, although they make up only 20 percent of the married population.

IN NEW JERSEY women can file suit against their husbands if they are victims of wife-beating, according to a recent ruling by the State Appeals Court.

New Jersey Judge Sylvia Pressler, in an opinion handed down in January stated that the old common law doctrine that prevents one spouse from suing the other does not apply when a husband beats his wife.

Pressler added that "in a civilized society, wife beating is self-evidently neither a marital privilege nor an act of simple domestic negligence."

The judge stated that her decision was based on a 1974 state supreme court ruling that permitted a woman to sue her son-in-law for the wrongful death of her daughter.

A FEDERALLY-FUNDED women's center in Keyport, New Jersey, reports that twice as many women as men take tranquilizers, and three times as many women as men use diet pills and amphetamines.

Counselors at the Women's Resource and Survival Center report that sex stereotyping has a direct

effect on the prescription responses of doctors.

One registered nurse and counselor, Dorothy Fryer, claims that women who hold non-traditional jobs and experience anxiety about it often have their symptoms diagnosed as emotional disorders, and are given drugs for it. Men in the same situations, she says, are diagnosed as behaving normally under the circumstances.

OLDER WOMEN who pursue college educations get better grades than their younger male and female colleagues.

This is the finding of Dr. David Beardslee of Michigan's Oakland University. The Detroit News reports that Beardslee, who is the director of that university's Institutional Research Department, studied the transcripts of 6500 Oakland University students. He found that older women got the best grades of anyone; next came younger women; and last, men of all ages who fared about equally.

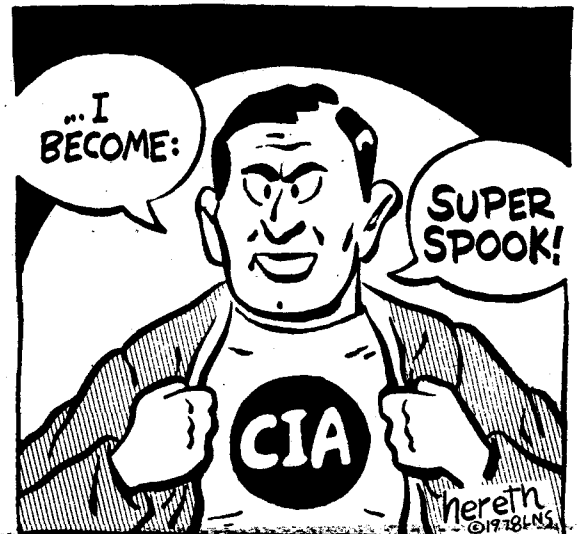
Beardslee, says the Detroit News, does not feel that "the older people get, the women get smarter and men get dumber. . . It's just that older women are (more) highly motivated."

ECOCLIPS

THE Citizens' Energy Project says it has obtained an internal government report which reveals that Department of Energy expenditures for solar research will be reduced next year.

The Washington, DC research group says the report shows that the government's solar research funding will be reduced from \$390 million this year to \$373 million next year. In the meantime, the group says, the same report shows that nuclear research funds will remain at least four-and-a-half times greater than solar funds, and that fossil fuels research will be increased by nearly \$80 million to \$924 million.

The same report allegedly shows that while the Department of Energy employs at least 1700 persons in nuclear research, only 21 are working in the fields of solar thermal and wind energy research combined.



dc eye

Bill Raspberry's ghost and other apparitions

BILL Raspberry tried bravely last month to calm the ghosts of Sterling Tucker's past. The problem with this exorcism business, however, is that unless you are good at it you may just end up exciting the poltergeists further. That's what happened to a few wraiths that had wriggled around on the pages of what the Ear calls the "dear little DC Gazette." In February they received the full attention of the city's most distinguished columnist — spreading, we fear, doubts about Tucker to hundreds of thousands who had never heard of them before.

We will return to the aforementioned apparitions in a moment, but there is a strange rattling in the closet that may be of more significance — at least to those who pride themselves on being loyal Democrats. We are sorry to report that in 1972 Sterling Tucker came close to becoming — dare we say it? — a Republican.

The idea, it appears, was spawned by Walter Fauntroy's plan to become a favorite son candidate at the Democratic convention, another in Walter's long string of grand strategies that start out as schemes to win us freedom but end up only giving himself some publicity. Tucker's thought was to become a Republican and go to the convention as a favorite son. Carl Shipley, who was seeking reelection as local GOP committeeman on a forward-looking platform that challenged "the wide-spread myth" that Washingtonians wanted self-government, was lukewarm towards the idea, according to the Washington Post. But the local GOP chairman, Edmund Pendleton Jr., wrote Tucker that "your recent expression of interest in the Republican Party is a source of gratification to me."

It was obviously not a source of gratification to the Post, however, which wrote a long editorial chiding Tucker and Fauntroy for their presidential ambitions. Tucker, at least, got the message and has been trying to give the impression of party fealty ever since. We hope, for the sake of the local Democratic Party, the impression is correct, that the 1972 affair was just a brief aberration, but considering the nature of the GOP at the time and its White House leadership, there must be at least lingering concern that he was even tempted.

Let us now, however, return even deep-

er into the pages of history to another interesting matter: Sterling's Ohio tax case of which Raspberry spoke at such length in his column. This case has traditionally rated only footnote status in the Gazette, but since Bill got the thing so muddled we feel compelled to provide some variance of fact and nuance.

Bill apparently relied upon Sterling as his source. Even in the best of times this is risky and in this instance led poor Raspberry quite astray. Sterling, for example, told Raspberry that the government "came up with a total of \$1700 in overstated deductions for the tax years 1952 to 1954." In fact, that was the amount of unpaid taxes due, which is quite another thing. Raspberry says "there was no accusation of fraud." No, just four counts of evasion of income taxes.

Sterling suggests that the IRS was interested in him "because we were making a few local waves at the time — pushing for open housing, school desegregation, that sort of thing." Perhaps. But surely all those unreceipted cash contributions to churches, building funds, the United Fund and Boy's Town (just to mention a few) must have piqued their interest as well, especially since Tucker failed to come up with any confirmation of the gifts from these organizations that presumably should keep records of such transactions. It is also worth noting that while Sterling considered himself a threat to the state, he certainly was no threat to the State Department which considered him innocuous enough to send on a tour for it in India.

Finally, it should be remembered that this "ghost" appeared real enough to the judge that he told Tucker the only reason he wasn't sending him to jail was because Tucker said he had TB and the judge thought he might infect the other prisoners.

Bill might wish to review Tucker's confirmation hearings before the Senate in 1969, paying particular attention to the document contained there entitled "Criminal Action 22589, United States of America vs. Sterling Tucker." It makes fascinating reading and, contrary to what Raspberry would have us believe, quite of this world.

But if Bill would like to help Tucker we recommend for a future column a piece on why Tucker is qualified for mayor based on his achievements in office. Tell us how he has been as interested in health care as Polly Shackleton, or as concerned about

the consumer as John Wilson or as diligent in seeking fairer taxation as Marion Barry or as protective of human justice as Dave Clarke or as supportive of education as Hilda Mason or even as intelligent a spokesman for the middle-of-the-road as Arrington Dixon. Each of these colleagues of Tucker has their faults but each can argue with more justification than Tucker that the city is better off for their presence on the council. In fact, each would be a more appealing candidate for mayor. The problem is that Tucker got there first.

Contrary to the insinuation seeping out of the Tucker camp, they didn't need Sterling to keep them in line; they needed him to get out of the way.

In short, Bill, prove that Tucker has done something other than being a rather uninspired legislative traffic cop and nobody will care what happened in Ohio twenty years ago.

The perils of merger

THE STRANGE DOINGS AT UDC last month have their roots in the stranger decision to create a university here in the first place. There never was any good academic reason to combine the disparate functions of Washington Technical Institute and Federal City College. It was a political and bureaucratic decision and, like some previous wonders of reorganization such as DHR, we may be paying the price for a long time.

Not only did the functions of the two campuses not lend themselves to amalgamation, but the rules they had developed didn't either. As one example, teachers at WTI have tenure; those at FCC don't. Back when it looked like Cleveland Denard was going to be head of UDC, the folks at FCC were worried that their campus would be turned into a trade school; now that Lisle Carter is running the show, the folks at WTI are worried about "elitism."

They have some reason to be concerned, given the cavalier manner in which reorganization is proceeding. Carter, assisted by one of the town's more esteemed law firms, shoved a bill for interim personnel policies under the city council's nose, and that body, which has never been inclined to think seriously about UDC, readily agreed that it was a good bill and should be passed on an emergency basis. The bill was sloppily written and when those

THE BLUE LINE BLUES

Woke up this morning, feeling mighty sad
Sittin' at my table counting all the change I had;
I had twenty-six cents and a farecard worth a dime.
Need four more pennies to get downtown on time.

Borrowed four more coppers, headed for the track,
Put my money in and the farebox gave it back.
"We don't accept no pennies" is what it said to me.
Got the Blue Line blues, just as blue as I can be.

So I took my ten cent farecard, dropped it in the slot,
The yellow gates swung open, I said "Man, you're really hot;
"Got a Dupont Circle baby and a ten cent Metro ride,
"But those Blue Line blues keep rollin' deep inside."

Standing on the platform, heard somebody say
"Pardon the inconvenience but there'll be a slight delay
"On the Blue Line; on the Red Line too.
"When we diagnose the problem, we'll get right back to you."

(Vamp 'til ready)

Saw the train acomin', thought I was in luck
But when the train came to my stop the doors they all
were stuck
On the Blue Line in the tunnels of DC;
Oh, there ain't no cure for my subsurface misery.

Got to Metro Center; they said, "Man, without a doubt,
We can not take your pennies so we can not let you out
Of the Blue Line, unless you pay a fine.
So it cost me fifty dollars just to ride that subway line

The moral of this story is if you don't want no fuss
Grab your Dupont Circle baby and go and take a bus
You can't cheat or eat on Metro, no matter who you be.
Got the Blue Line blues, just as blue as I can be.

— SAM SMITH

(Copyright 1978, Sam Smith)

...o would be affected by it read it they became justifiably agitated. Whether the bill meant to say what it seemed to say (e.g. threatening tenure) is irrelevant, if the administration of UDC and the council had bothered to check with the faculty the mess could have been avoided.

But faculty consultation does not seem to be a high priority in the UDC administration. Carter has made some pro forma contact with the various departments but, for example, when faculty committees were named to deal with the merger of the campuses, the administration told the faculty who should represent it on the committees, where and when they would meet and how they should report on meetings. No exceptions. Some of these committees did not even contain representatives from the three affected schools - WTI, FCC and DC Teachers College. It's a little like management telling a union who it should send to the bargaining table.

There have also been a flurry of curt memos, abrupt firings and a feeling in some quarters that Carter doesn't care much about what faculty and students think.

Some have suggested that the Urban League may be to UDC what the Trilateral Commission is to the other Carter Administration. Lisle Carter, trustee president Ron Brown and vice president Ben Henley, as well as such key figures in the reorganization as James Williams and Madelon Stent all have past or present connections with the League. At the moment it seems little more than an interesting fact - but it is interesting.

It is unlikely that things will simmer down. Putting WTI and FCC together will not

be easy. They have different ways of doing things and, it would appear, so does Carter. We can look forward to more Post editorials calling on the faculty to subjugate their concerns and rights to the greater glory of the merger - despite the fact that the benefits of the merger remain somewhat of a mystery.

We doubt it will even save money. Reorganizations generally don't. This should be of particular concern to DC residents with children in the public

schools. For while the percentage of city funds used for the elementary and secondary schools in this city has dropped over the past decade, the percentage for all forms of education has stayed about the same. What this means is that the city's new higher education programs are partly funded out of increases that might otherwise have gone to the elementary and secondary schools. Which is clever, but hardly represents a deep commitment to public education of any sort.

CBC charges ahead - but what is it?

MOST PEOPLE still don't seem to understand Competency Based Curriculum even though the Year of Awareness proclaimed by Vince Reed has already passed. It was unfortunate timing, coming right on the heels of the Bicentennial. A lot of people's cup of awareness had just plain overflowed. The early morning public TV explanations didn't help. At least the one we watched didn't. It put us right back to sleep.

CBC is here and unavoidable, however, and may be a good thing. But the Presidential Building hasn't discovered how to tell us. The problem is an old one: how do you teach kids to speak English when the administrators don't.

It's taken us a year and a half to understand what is going on. The flash came as we were sitting at a mayoral news conference announcing two Job Corps Centers for DC. Turns out the Job Corps has been quietly using "behavioral objectives" with-

out telling anyone. The Job Corps system is also non-graded and students set their own pace. They claim a 92% placement rate for graduates - 70% in business, the rest in the military and higher training. The cost is high: twice that spent on a DC school student, but the results are dramatically better as well. Further, we understood every word the Job Corps people said, in contrast with the CBCers who, for example, say that one of their goals is that skills be "self-actualizing." Unfortunately, nonsense goals beget nonsense skills.

But, thanks to the Job Corps, we caught a first glimmer of what was going on. We may have it confused, but what we think Vince Reed is up to is incorporating the principles of the Scout Manual into elementary and secondary education. Remember the merit badges and the achievements you had to check off to get them?

SWAMPOODLE'S REPORT

THE big news of the month is that Chief Jefferson has proposed the legalization of prostitution. As soon as John Wilson heard about it, he reportedly sat down to write a consumer protection bill. Under the proposal, sources tell me, prostitutes will have to give written estimates to customers, a certificate of compliance must be conspicuously posted in each bedroom and a new Office of Lacivious Affairs will be established, with members appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. A study by the city's budget office suggests what it calls a gross receipts tax on prostitution and Marion Barry is said to be looking into a low income exemption. There is some feeling in city hall that the levy should be made part of the proposed non-resident income tax. As one staffer put it, "That way we could get the commuters coming and going."

I KEEP hearing complaints about the District Building. People don't seem to think it's a suitably imposing city hall. I think it's kind of nice, but if we must change why not take over the National Visitor's Center? It would be ideal for city hall since it has such a large waiting room. The other possibility would be to spruce up the District Building, say, with Gene Davis stripes. Or better yet, let Joseph Danzansky put a giant computer check-out sticker on it. That way all we'd have to do is rub up against it and find out how much it's costing us.

The Gazette has been besieged with calls asking us whether it's true we're about to be bought by US News and World Report. Not a scintilla of truth, dear friends, although there are rumors around the city room that there's been a tender offer from Larry Flynt. I doubt that it will happen, though, what with Doug Moore and the 100 Ministers and all. After all, this is Washington and not Plains, Georgia or someplace like that.

Meanwhile, now that Time has become a local media mogul, everyone's placing bets on how soon the Post and the Star will come out with identical front pages. I don't really have any philosophical objections to the Time-Newsweek connection but I do hate the thought of all those blow-in card falling on the floor twice a day.

JAMES GLEASON is joining those other politicians who, by choice or necessity, are leaving politics and going into fictionwriting. It does sound strange, I know, but remember: it's the literary form politicians are most familiar with.

ONLY one winner so far in the New City Motto contest. Sandy Brown wins with his suggestion: "Quid, Anxious Sum?" Translation: "What, me worry?"

ASK SWAMPOODLE TIME: A reader, who calls himself Harvey Kumquatt (and don't think you're fooling me, Mr. Kumquatt! There ought to be a law against pseudonyms.) writes in reference to a news release put out by school board member Frank Shaffer-Corona in which S-C tells of his recent activities in Mexico. Old Kumquatt is not disturbed about the hard stuff (reported elsewhere in this issue) but Frank's assertion that "he will... begin meeting with Mexican officials to discuss the exchange of ideas that might possibly lead to an improvement in our search for educational achievement and excellence for all students." Writes HK: Did he "really 'discuss the exchange of ideas' with Mexican officials? And if so, where did they begin? Buber? Hegel? Locke? I mean, the exchange of ideas is a serious business! To discuss! Stumped geniuses for centuries! How do we know a thing? Where do ideas come from? The congruence of two subjective impulses! Heavy stuff! Who are these 'Mexican officials' anyway?? No credentials, man, to discuss the exchange of ideas - none!! At least a doctor of philosophy somewhere! Jesus!"

I will explain it to you. An "exchange of ideas" is a term of art; it is the opposite of "a breakdown in communications," which, if you listen carefully to the eleven o'clock news, you'll discover is the source of all human problems viz: "Police officials blamed the accidental shooting of three orphans in a drug bust on 7th Street on a breakdown in communications." An exchange of ideas is what we need to end breakdowns in communications. Personally, I'm a little skeptical. I tried to exchange an idea once with a high official of the Board of Trade and he said he wouldn't accept it without a sales slip.

(If you have questions that no one else seems able to answer, send them to me, c/o the Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009. Please enclose a stamped envelope addressed to my sister. She hasn't heard from me in a long time.)

Joshua X. Swampoodle

Purveyor of split infinitives
for more than forty years

It worked, it makes sense, and is a good way to go about education. The military has used the Scout approach for years and has often proved much more efficient at teaching skills than the civilian educators. The thing that worries us, though, is what happens when you mix logic and order with obfuscation. A contemporary bureaucrat writing a Scout manual would have us so confused that we would end up rubbing two sticks together to save someone from drowning.

There may be more significant problems with CBC as well. For an inkling of them don't miss the January issue of Inquiry Magazine in which Joel Spring lashes out at CBC and particularly the DC version. Says Spring: "Competency based education is almost a religious dogma to those educators who accept Harvard psychologist B.F. Skinner's assumptions about learning. Skinner... has long felt that all learning is a result of positive reinforcement, or reward consistently associated with a particular behavior. It was on this general principle that Skinner was able to train pigeons to play ping-pong in front of college classes. . . (Interestingly, the educators do not seem to be aware of the devastating criticism leveled at the scientific claims of Skinner's detailed theory by Noam Chomsky and others.)"

Spring also questions whether controversial subjects like government or history can be reduced to a "series of standardized behavioral objectives" and sees CBC as part of a plan to remove community control of the schools and put it back under centralized authority.

He says: "Now it should be recognized that competency based instruction is a perfectly logical, and in many cases a successful way of teaching certain basic skills. It becomes a problem when it is adopted as the major method of instruction and is used to centralize control of the curriculum."

Some of Spring's points are arguable (e.g. when was curriculum control in DC really decentralized?) but it is significant that the first meaningful criticism of DC's rush to CBC should appear in a magazine published on the west coast. Perhaps DC Citizens for Better Public Education could prepare a pro and con fact sheet to be used in discussions between the school administration and PTAs. From the parent's point of view, CBC has never been adequately debated. Like a modern-day, bureaucratic Topsy, it just self-actualized.

It's not just paint

THE RETESTING of Northwest children for lead levels has allayed many fears that air pollution was responsible for lead poisoning. Don't rest too easy, however.

While researchers at Children's Hospital can point to a high correlation between the ingestion of lead paint chips and lead poisoning they can not prove that the poisoning is only due to the paint rather than from an accumulation of factors, e.g. paint, dirt and air pollution.

So far the city has failed to do any serious testing for lead in the air or soil and the Committee for Lead Elimination Action in the District seems rather indifferent to the question as well.

The politics of the lead controversy are interesting. There are several industries that have a vested interest in keeping attention focussed on paint. The oil industry is an obvious example. The lead industry is another. Even the paint firms do not suffer (and they are major oil consumers). Since lead-based paint is no longer sold, they can only benefit from local attacks on lead paint.

Unfortunately, according to Louis Lombardo, of the Public Interest Campaign, the DC Committee on Lead has accepted funding from both the Lead Industries Association and the National Paint and Coatings Association. Members of this latter organization are not only in the paint business but include, for example, PPG Industries, a major manufacturer of gasoline lead additives.

The obsession with lead paint has al-

A Tucker fan replies to our piece

Can a former Washingtonian respond to your recent attack on Sterling Tucker as a Mayoral candidate? Before my recent move from Washington to the Big Apple, I had decided to work for Tucker's election because I felt he was best qualified to strengthen city administration and deal effectively with Congress and other interest groups in the broader public interest. Your indictment had a number of elements, and I would like to comment on each in turn.

First, you applaud Walter Washington's sensitivity to various constituencies, which comes as news to me and probably many others. His appointments of and loyalties to various people who have demonstrated incompetence or hostility to local community needs and appeals show far better what his responsiveness is after ten years as Mayor. You see Tucker as the Board of Trade's man, but WW used to be considered as the special friend of the business community, and Marion Barry has flown a friendly flag in recent years, too. In any case, the whole matter is much more complicated than your sharp words would have one believe. From my observations, politicians and the business community are locked in a mutually dependent embrace. The former want the latter's money for campaigns with few or no strings, while the latter want influence at the lowest possible investment cost. I have heard both sides express bitterness and disappointment about this equation. But what is the public interest in this relationship? Clearly, DC needs a healthy business community, creating jobs and housing, and providing goods and services (especially to isolated neighborhoods); public policy can affect this through regulations and inducements. A balancing act is inevitable in dealing with these issues, and conflict is built into the process. It would be poor politics indeed to promote any one set of interests and neglect others, especially the public's, and I have never heard Tucker called a poor politician.

Second, you denigrate his role as Council Chairman. To me, it was no small feat to have led that body over the past three years and made it into a truly functioning legislature. The membership of the original Council would have taxed the patience of a saint: several highly competent people, local activists with no legislative experience, and a few who are dullards or unstable. You should know from your ANC days how frail and conflicted such public bodies are, and how difficult it is to create a cohesive, effective group that can act in the public interest. Tucker has been a strong chairman, and has created a useful legacy for future occupants of that office. The support for his candidacy among the current Council members, when it surfaces, will show how those most directly affected by his leadership esteem the role he has played.

True, he could have introduced more bills on his own, but to be an effective legislative leader, one has to let others reap most of the public rewards. No legislative leader with whose activities I am familiar is a prime feeder of bills into the hopper. As for ANC legislation, I know from first-hand experience that Tucker played the key role in getting the law passed against strong opposition from some Council members who were fearful of their power base and prerogatives. As a supporter of Hilda Mason, I hope she will get appointed to head the Education Committee, but the realities of partisan politics suggest otherwise. She barely won election as a minority party candidate, and only after crucial help from active Democrats, some of whom are precisely the people opposing her appointment on political grounds. Tucker has to respond to such appeals based on party loyalty, as would anyone in his position as a party leader.

You find fault with his record of voting on "progressive legislation" -- by your definition, presumably. His votes are a matter of record, and I think can stand comparison with anyone's, especially the Mayor. Of greater importance, though, is the fact that he has prevented action on demagogic or badly - prepared bills. You know the proclivities of the Council in this regard better than most. Would DC be better off if most blocked bills had come to a vote, with the likelihood of passage enhanced by the tactics of pressure groups? To think so is to show a naivety about legislative processes that is downright dangerous.

His local liaison with neighborhood groups can only be evaluated properly if you have a copy of his appointments calendar. If it has been weak, and I frankly don't know that it has, it would be due to poor "political" staff work. But his staff has had to deal primarily with Council-wide matters, with good results. Would you have preferred that his Hatched staff had been as active as some other Council staffers in political fence-mending activities? When his list of supporters emerges, you can judge for yourself whether his citywide (not simply Ward 3) support is broadly-based and will give him the political network that any Mayor needs to be effective and responsive.

(Please turn to next page)

most completely obscured growing information concerning lead from other sources. As a case in point, researcher David Roberts analyzed the snow from several Kansas City areas and found levels of lead in snow flakes six times higher than the amount allowable by the EPA's clean water standards. In other words, the snow was poisoned. Roberts says that car exhausts and factories are spewing into the environment 1000 times the natural level of lead and the snow helps to wash it away.

Its function is illustrated by the fact that even the polluted Kansas River has proved less leaden than the fresh snow Kansas City residents have been shoveling lately.

In an August 1974 article in the Progressive, Lombardo wrote:

"There is now as much lead in the dirt and dust on the sidewalks of our cities as there is in some lead ore — so much lead, in fact, that a child swallowing just one twenty-fourth of a teaspoon of dirt daily over a period of six to eight months can suffer lead poisoning. To visualize one twenty-fourth of a teaspoon of dirt, picture the amount of pepper on a couple of fried eggs. Eating this amount of dirt is easy enough for a child who, while play-

ing on a sidewalk, licks a dropped lollipop today, a cookie tomorrow, or just sucks his thumb every day."

Lombardo also reported that surveys found that urban residents carry thirty to 60 percent more lead in their blood than do rural residents, and that the lead levels in the dirt outside the White House is three times that found in most residential areas.

Further, the levels of lead in the air

TEACHER'S CONTRACT: How long a day?

THE teacher's contract has been extended six months while negotiations continue. Because of the limited autonomy of the school board, the contract does not deal with pay but a number of issues have surfaced that could lead to major controversies:

- The length of the school day. Teachers are dismissed at 3:15 with a few exceptions. This results in classes being curtailed for a variety of reasons, and some parents are edgy over what seems to be a concurrent curtailment of their children's education. As Beverly McGaughy

and dirt of urban areas has caused some environmentalists to warn that growing vegetables in the city might not be safe.

We don't know all the facts, but it is apparent that there is much more to this business than chips of paint. The refusal of governments like DC to study or of oil and automobile advertising-supported media to ask is not surprising but it makes the job of finding the truth about lead much more difficult.

told the school board at recent hearings: "The teacher's union maintains that there is nothing for the teachers to do if they stay beyond 3:15, but this a ludicrous argument when our children are continually being dismissed early or being babysat so that teachers can spend time on CBC, staff development, grade-level meetings, record-keeping etc. The simple facts of the matter are that the union got an unrealistically short work day out of weak or indifferent school management in an earlier era. They have clung steadfastly to it ever since, at the educational expense of the children and to the growing disgust and despair of their parents."

DC Citizens for Better Public Education has discovered that when you convert salaries to an hourly wage, DC teachers are paid 20-30% more than teachers in suburban jurisdictions. The average hourly compensation in the city is \$15.71.

- Consumer representation in negotiations. Traditionally, teacher negotiations have been tightly closed from public view, with even school board members barred from participation. The school board has moved to strike the "closed bargaining" provision from its rules and to consider a new bargaining procedure with more public involvement. We have argued that parent/child interests should be officially represented in negotiations and, if you agree, now is the time to let your school board representatives know it.

FEEDBACK Cont'd

As for Metro, you fail to mention the practical problem of being an effective DC representative on a regional body that dangles from federal strings. What would you have DC representatives do -- threaten to close the system down if they don't have their way?

Tucker's staff has served him and the Council in ways that others do not need to do. I am sure that their commitment to DC is no less profound. What is more important, however, is the question of which Mayoral candidate will be better able to attract and select energetic and able people for the next administration. I think there can be no doubt that Tucker's ability is greater on this score than any other potential candidate.

His past financial problems are less troubling when seen in context. As your own calendar of past difficulties clearly shows, none of these actions involved corruption or venality, the twin sins of sitting politicians. The issue is one of character: how to interpret these actions as guides or clues to future conduct. To me they reflect the real problems of many people in his situation in dealing with the pressing multiple demands placed upon them as community leaders, family heads, and underpaid politicians or professionals. Mass electorates seem to understand these problems better than admirably high-minded iron-pumpers, perhaps because they are equally burdened. I have no doubt as to Tucker's character as a public servant, based upon the record of his twenty years in the Washington limelight.

Your piece concludes with a rather quixotic testimonial to Walter Washington's passionate beliefs. He has never seemed to me to demonstrate zeal either in telling people what he believes or in fighting (who?) for their realization. A glaring omission in your editorial is any reference to the ever-present problem of race in DC politics and society. I remember what Washington, DC was like in the early 1960's, when the civil rights struggle came home to the nation's capital. Only Julius Hobson and Walter Fauntroy have equal or greater claims to that of Sterling Tucker as an effective DC leader for black emancipation in that complex era, when national and local issues were being confronted daily with special force in DC. These three were at the center of the action in that period, whether in organizing pressure tactics leading to the 1963 March on Washington, the housing struggle, the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, or many others known mainly to veterans and scholars of those hectic times.

The prime requirement for effective protests, understood and exemplified by all three, was to assess accurately the multiracial sources of support in promoting the rights of Black people. Each man in his own way advanced the rate of progress on many fronts, avoiding narrowly self-serving and ultimately divisive appeals and tactics. The future of Washington, DC depends upon successful tight-rope walking in this regard, given its varied constituencies of interest locally and nationally, in order to avoid splitting them along racial lines. Walter Washington has also done this, to his great credit. It should not be left out of people's assessments of the strengths of various candidates. To my mind, there can be no doubt of Tucker's ability to walk through this minefield successfully. I believe Sterling Tucker will prove to be a responsive, effective Mayor, which is why I supported him and urge others to do so.

— AL GOLLIN

Metroticks

FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF METRO:

It's polling time again and, not surprisingly, the results confirm some basic subway principles:

- Poll result: A poll last fall found that 64% of respondents would have taken a bus if there had been no train, 11% would have taken a taxi, the rest would have gone by cars, walked or stayed home. Basic Principle: Subways primarily compete with other forms of mass transit (especially bus lines) rather than with the automobile.

- Poll Result: 60% had family incomes of over \$18,000, 30% had incomes of over \$30,000. In a town that is 70% black and in which about 40% of the residents don't own cars, seventy-five percent of the riders were white. Basic Principle: Modern subways are designed as a subsidy program for the middle and upper classes and for white suburbanites rather than black city dwellers. There is more economic and racial discrimination in mass transit here than in almost any other governmental program.

Despite Metro's inability to get people out of cars, the Star still managed with a straight face to headline its story, "Metro: Anti-Pollution Success." As anyone who has tried to find a parking space downtown lately should know, a subway is an ineffective means of cutting down on traffic. The Post even admitted that Metro has only theoretically reduced the number of cars entering the city by about 4%. We say theoretically because, in fact, the reduction doesn't occur. As street loads lighten, cars from more distant points or formerly undriven cars move in to take the places left by the new subway riders. On top of this, subways attract new development, and since most of the traffic to this new development is by car, street loads go up.

Now, of course, some people do gain from a subway. Take, for instance, Wood-

ward & Lothrop, which has experienced a 70% increase in customers in its downtown store since the opening of the Blue Line. Which is nice for Woodies, but makes one wonder what sort of increases all those small businesses evicted for Metro would have experienced if they had been allowed into the actions as well.

Such questions, however, are minor compared with the timebomb of Metro financing. Transportation Secretary Adams is calling it an \$8 billion system. Edwin Kanwit, a former senior economist at the Urban Mass Transit Administration, thinks the correct figure for completing the system is \$12 billion. In a memo recently obtained by the Gazette, Kanwit also criticizes Metro and the Council of Governments for their ridership and revenue forecasting techniques:

- "From the beginning the basis of ridership estimation and farebox revenues has been phoney. There was never any chance that the farebox would pay operating expenses and fund capital outlay as Metro promised. . . This was well known by all transportation economists, and WMATA has been a laughing stock from the outset. . .

- "It has not been unanticipated inflation that has been responsible for the shortfall in capital. The project costs were deliberately underestimated. An allowance for inflation has been included from the beginning. Increasing costs have been hidden from the public, and are being hidden now."

OUR DIRTY OLD MAYOR

WE TRY to keep this paper clean, but Mayor Washington insists on writing dirty things and we feel obliged to pass them on. His latest contribution to bluestocking pornography is his proposed bill, the "Control of Live Entertainment Act of 1978." This sensuous legislation bans "sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, bestiality, oral copulation, flagellation" as well as "the touching, caressing or fondling of the breast, buttocks, anus or genitals" and "the displaying of the pubic hair, anus, vulva or genitals" in a Class D or C licensed premises. The bill also prohibits "the employ or use of any person in the sale or service of alcoholic beverages in or upon the licensed premises while such person is unclothed or in such attire, costume or clothing as to expose to view any portion of the female breast below the top of the aureola or of any portion of the pubic hair, anus, cleft of the buttocks, vulva or genitals." We continue to hold the theory that sexual activity, even in a Class C or D licensed premise, is more socially redeeming and less seamy than much of what goes on in the District Building, but it's election year and this particular form of silliness has a lot of appeal in certain quarters. The problem, of course, comes when the prudes try to define the line between obscenity and wholesomeness. The Supreme Court and others have struggled with this for years. Now, thanks to Wally and the Corporation Counsel's office, we have the answer. The line occurs exactly seven feet from the nearest patron and 3 1/2 feet above floor level. Beyond that point "entertainers whose breasts and buttocks are exposed" may perform "subject to the provisions of subsection (a) (1) hereof." The legislation will have to be modified with the advent of the metric system, but for the present it's nice to know where to draw the line in the war against filth.

THE ROOF IS FALLING

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, people around the world have known how to make roofs. Even the most primitive tribes understand the principle. But a cursory glance at human history reminds us that progress is not inevitable. Technologies as well as cultures die out. And there is no more fear-some hint that a new Dark Ages may be upon us than the recent spate of falling and leaking roofs — from the Hartford Coliseum to the Kennedy Center.

Chicken Little was more observant than we had supposed. After all, lying amongst

THE LAST 100 DAYS

IF YOU want to get anything done around town, now is the time to do it. The prospect of elections has stirred the city council to finally vote a speculation tax. The mayor has finally decided to do something about potholes. Doug Schneider is talking about Metro like a staff writer from the Gazette. Big Wally has decided that a differential property tax isn't such a bad idea after all. Even Jerry Moore appears to notice that the transit fare is rising.

When a president comes into office they like to talk about the "100 Days." It looks like a local variant is in the wings. We'll have a hundred days of action, too. They'll just come at the end of the term.

the debris, it is difficult to determine whether one's unfortunate state is due to natural causes or human failing. Now we learn that after \$40 million was spent in restoration, the roof of the National Visitors Center is in danger of collapse. Quoting Transportation Secretary Brock Adams, the Star recently reported that "the structure has been weakened by some of the reconstruction that has already taken place, and the roof indeed could fall in unless steps are taken."

This is grim business and if schools of architecture do not immediately institute retraining courses designed to retrieve the ancient and once basic knowledge of how to make a roof, we shall shortly be forced emmigrés to the caverns of the Shenandoah, where we shall ~~see~~ huddled around our fires, none of us even remembering how a Cuisinart works.

WILL 1985 BE APPEALED?

THERE ARE TWO basic uncertainties in our life. Whether UFOs exist and whether a comprehensive plan exists. Community groups maintain that there is a plan; it's the one drawn up before the granting of some self-government by the National Capital Planning Commission. The home rule law required the city to come up with a new comprehensive plan but hasn't quite gotten around to it, what with all the rezonings and special exceptions and other important business it's had to attend to. At the same time, city hall doesn't recognize the authority of the NCPC plan. Back in November, Judge Silvia Bacon sided with the government in rejecting citizen objections to high-density development on the Georgetown waterfront. Then along came the DC Court of Appeals, in a decision on a Capitol Hill rezoning case, and said that the NCPC plan must be followed unless the Zoning Commission shows good cause why it shouldn't be. Now the Goergetowners want back into court. It's been going on for years, and if it goes on much longer it will be 1985, the year the NCPC planned for, in which case we'll have to argue about the plan's retroactivity as well as its existence.

FUN NITE AT THE BOT

MILTON COLEMAN, one of the few Post reporters ever sent to the District Building who doesn't run back to 15th Street every lunchtime to see whether his assignment to the national desk has come through, wrote a fun piece about the recent Board of Trade dinner, in which he noted that more than "a dozen DC City Council members and ranking officials in Mayor Washington's administration were given reserved seats at one of seven tables purchased by (Robert) Linowe's firm." Bobby is president of the BOT, but more significantly the leading zoning lawyer in town. Rezoning is to DC what steel is to Pittsburgh and Milt noted, "Linowes has a keen understanding of the necessary relationships between business and government." To understand this comment, which we fervently hope was

satiric, imagine for a moment a dinner of the National Association of Manufacturers at which twelve of the Democratic leaders of Congress and members of the Carter cabinet sat at tables purchased by ITT.

Coleman began his piece by suggesting that things were changing somewhat among the "nearly all-white, very clubby and politically conservative set" but then went on:

"Still, there were some clear signs Saturday night that the change is not complete. For example, the night's entertainment included a trio of black tap dancers known as the Third Generation Steps, descendants of the famous Step Brothers, who smiled non-stop, waved their hands and slid, skipped, somersaulted and soft-shoed across the stage, to the wild and sometimes shrieking delight of the audience."

This rare insight into the Board of Trade is perhaps a sign that things are changing at the nearly all-white, very clubby and politically conservative Post, but we doubt it.

ODDS & ENDS

WITH DC public school closings imminent, threatened schools should carefully check the system's stated capacity for their school. In the cases of some small schools, the capacity reportedly presumes the use of certain rooms for classroom space that are actually necessary for other purposes such as counselling etc.

SOME CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL are worried that the mayor's race will tie up all the workers, money and attention. Several people have been told that if they are going to work in the Barry campaign, they can't be messing around in mere council races. Funny, we don't remember Marion saying that when he was running for council.

ROBERT MENDELSON, who got derailed on his way to a high post at the Interior Department because of certain peculiar meanderings of campaign contributions exposed by the San Francisco Bay Guardian, is still in town. According to More Magazine, "Robert Mendelsohn, blocked for the moment from the Interior Department, is on the federal payroll nevertheless, with a \$168 per diem. He is supervising some sidewalk construction in Washington for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, a federal agency on whose board — appointed by President Carter — Interior Secretary Andrus sits."

A DC school board member recently went up to Cyrus Vance at a party and introduced himself. "I know," said the secretary. "I've been in Mexico," Frank Shaffer-Corona continued. "I know," said Vance.

The reason Vance knew was because Shaffer-Corona has gotten more press in Mexico City than he has in DC of late. His letter to Vice President Walter Mondale was reprinted in the MC daily, Excelsior, the day before Mondale's visit to Mexico. In the letter, Shaffer-Corona called on Mondale to disown a reported deal under which the US government would pay a higher price for Mexican gas in return for Mexican support of Carter's immigration policies.

Shaffer-Corona was also one of a number of latino leaders who flew to Mexico the following week to meet with President Jose Lopez Portillo. The president said there were no serious negotiations of the bracero issues with the US but if there were the US latino delegation would be included in the negotiations. According to Shaffer-Corona, Mexico is also considering an office of Chicano affairs.

FRED MILLAR, an assistant professor of sociology, is at the center of a major academic freedom controversy at George Mason University. Millar and his supporters think he's being fired because he's a Marxist. Millar is being represented by Phil Hirschkopf and has attract considerable support both on campus and elsewhere. There's a Fred Millar Legal Defense Fund located at 10746 Main St. (#201), Fairfax, Va. 22030.

YOU WOULDN'T guess it from the howls, but collections from property taxes have gone up less than any other major tax over the past ten years. In 1968 property tax revenues provided 27% of the city budget; today they only provide 15%. If property taxes had risen at the same rate as other forms of city income, your property taxes would be nearly twice what they are now. Main reasons this hasn't happened is because contributions from the federal government have risen 314% during the decade and income tax receipts 265%.

Property taxes are 49% above their 1968 level. . . ON THE EXPENDITURE SIDE, the biggest increase has come in that catch-all category known as "general government" which these days includes Metro operating subsidies. That's up 329% followed by public safety (up 197%), human resources (up 159%), environmental services (up 142%), elementary and secondary education (up 110%), transportation other than Metro (up 90%), recreation (up 17%).

TIP OF THE HAT to the Zoning Commission, which published its proposed new rules of procedures in preparation for the March 6 hearings on them. Using marginal notes, the commission indicated which sections of the law were slated for change and, in some cases at least, summarized the previous language. We have suggested in the past that all law amendments printed in the DC Register include both the new and the old language, as most amendments are unintelligible by themselves. The ZC's approach is a step in the right direction.

WE ARE INDEED INDEBTED TO THE Capitol Hill Restoration Society for keeping us up to date on the tree situation. ResSocers take trees seriously; in the last issue of their newsletter they advertised for a volunteer to serve as the Capitol Hill Tree Warden.

(Off the subject but we keep forgetting to tell you: there actually is an official game warden in DC. Now you know. Back to trees.)

According to the ResSoc it can take up to three years for the city to get around to removing a dead street tree. It takes even longer for it to put something in its place. So if you want to plant a tree, what you do is call up the Tree Division (629-4434) and arrange to get a permit. The division may need to inspect the site, but often they can just check their records and see if the location is empty. Your permit will have certain conditions attached, such as type of tree and a requirement that a licensed nursery do the job. The division apparently has strong opinions on which trees should be planted where, but you can argue with them.

THOUGHTS WORTH REPEATING: Jerry Moore on the intricacies of city government: "It takes many little screws to hold a watch together." So that explains it. . . LOUISE LAGUE of dear little Ear has gone to New York to work for Us magazine. We are desolated. Her husband, Star reporter Ned Scharff, has left with her. So you see, standards are Somewhere. Bless you both.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- NEW EVENING AND SATURDAY CLINIC providing first and trimester abortion services has opened in Northwest. Hillcrest Clinic, 7603 Georgia Ave. NW. 829-5620.
- JAZZ LUNCH: Every Thurs thru March at 1st Congregational Church, 10th & G NW. Two shows: 1130am and 1245pm with lunch provided by District Creative Space. Concert free, lunch inexpensive. Info: 244-6804
- VICTORIAN HOMES IN WASHINGTON by Henry Glassie. Just reprinted and available from Don't Tear It Down, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW (#1205), DC 20036. \$3.65 including postage and handling.
- CONSUMER GUIDE TO INSULATION: Free booklet available from Washington Gas Light. Call 750-1000 or write Community Relations, WGL, 1100 H NW, DC 20080.
- THREE DAY COURSE leading to certification in occupational hearing conservation. March 15-17. Fee: \$250. Info: Washington Hearing & Speech Society, 265-7335.
- MARION BARRY speaks to Northwest civic organizations as part of forum series for mayoral candidates. March 7, 8 pm. Hearst School.
- DIAL HOME LEARNING. Hot line of the Home & School Institute. Offers callers 24-hours a day an activity they can use for helping their children learn at home. Call 331-1777. Or write HSI at 1101 15th St. (LL-70) DC 20005 for more information.
- SUMMER Federal "After Hours" education program. Registration starts May 4. For info on more than 60 college level course open to government workers and general public, call Robert Stewart at GWU, 676-7018.
- AIR QUALITY AMENDMENT ACT: Mar 10 10am. Hearings. City Council. To testify call LaVerne White before March 9 at 724-8077.
- ZONING REGULATIONS CHANGES: Hearings Mar 30, Apr 3, 10 and 17. Room 11A. City Hall. 1 pm.
- ZERO POPULATION GROWTH. New metropolitan chapter forming. Temporary office is at ZPG's national office in the Dupont Circle Building. Temporary phone: Carol Parker at 785-0100.
- TAX ASSISTANCE: Weekdays in room 5156 of the Municipal Center, 301 C NW, for those filling out DC forms. Starting March 15 hours will run to 730 pm weekdays and mornings on weekends. Starting Mar 1, assistance will also be available at city hall weekdays and at some DC libraries. Info: 629-3324.
- WATER BILL FIASCO: Polly Shackleton says that some people who protested their water bills have been honored with new bills and penalties, even tho' their protests have not been resolved. Polly says: don't pay up unless your case has been resolved. If you live in Ward III, call her office and tell her about it.
- HEARING ON CITY COMMISSIONS, APPOINTMENT procedures etc. City Council, Mar 21, 5 pm. Call Cynthia Matthews, 724-8064, to testify.
- THEY WOWED THEM in Switzerland, Berlin, London and Aberdeen. They've been invited to Japan this summer. But can they make it in DC? DC's Youth Orchestra, a fine but often ignored local institution, is in serious financial straits. Last year more than 800 young people were trained by or played in the Youth Orchestra. You can help them continue their work by sending a check to DC Youth Orchestra Program, PO Box 4898, DC 20008
- ENTERING THE JOB MARKET: A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN OVER 30: Ward Auditorium #2, AU. 9am-noon. Info: 293-1100. Tickets required. Mar 9.
- EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN CONFERENCE sponsored by DC schools. Mar 18, SE Branch Library, 7th & D SE (724-4785). Apr 15, St. Francis De-Sales, 2021 RI Ave. NE (724-4354). 9-noon.
- SENIOR CITIZEN TAX HELP: Available at a variety of public centers throughout the city through the National Retired Teachers Assn and the American Assn of Retired People. For locations call Margaret Packer at 363-8562.
- HIGH RISES IN TAKOMA? Zoning Commission holds hearing on Mar 20 7-11pm at a location to be announced on a request to change the zoning at the site of the Old Colony Laundry to permit 90-foot high buildings. Info: Neighborhood Commissioner Sara Green (291-2784) or Brent Blackwelder, president of Plan Takoma (291-3310).
- WARD THREE TAX INFO: Instructions and forms for DC taxes available at Polly Shackleton's office in the Chevy Chase Community Center. Hours: 10-4. Call 686-5227.
- HEATING PROBLEMS: People with heating problems in rented property should call 724-4102 for non-residential buildings and 724-4417 for residential buildings.

TELL THEM YOU READ ABOUT IT IN THE DC GAZETTE.

AMERICA'S GROWING LATIN MINORITY

MOISES SANDOVAL

THE HISPANIC "BROWN TIDE" that continues to flood the American borders is on the verge of making this country's latin minority the nation's largest, surpassing even the black population.

The result, already discernable, will be a mushrooming subculture of poverty, spread through the United States like a great tree with its trunk in Texas and its branches reaching into every city of the West, Midwest and East.

For the one common denominator of the thousands of illegal immigrants who enter the US daily is poverty. And as the numbers continue to swell, so does the gap between rich and poor in America, leaving in the wake a rapidly growing Third World nation within the US.

The growth rate of the Hispanic minority has always been fairly staggering. The 75,000 Hispanics who were granted citizenship with the annexation of the Southwest in 1845-46 multiplied 40 times to three million by 1946, while the nation's total population multiplied only six times to 150 million.

By 1963 the Hispanic population had topped eight million and today, a mere 15 years later, Hispanos are said to have doubled again, to an estimated 16

million, according to the US Catholic Bishops Committee for the Spanish-Speaking.

In the same 15 years, Mexico's population jumped from 38 million to an estimated 62 million today. Present indications based on the 3.5 percent birth rate in Mexico suggest that country's population will double again to 120 million by the year 2000, sending ever greater waves of immigrants into the US.

In 1974 Fernando C. de Baca, then

President Ford's special assistant for hispanic affairs, observed that the Spanish-speaking were well on their way to replacing blacks, who number 22.6 million, as the nation's largest minority.

The implications of such growth go far beyond mere numbers. For unlike earlier waves of European immigrants, the Hispanic "tide" has not been absorbed into the dominant anglo culture. In large measure, it remains a culture apart, a proud if poor latin culture weighing heavily on the bottom fringes of American society.

As Professor Sabine Ulibarri of the University of New Mexico wrote several years ago, "In the international politics of today, it behooves the US to think about Mexico. If Mexico goes to hell, it will inevitably drag down the US with it."

America's hispanic population already exerts enormous influence throughout the US. Contrary to popular conceptions, the vast majority of hispanics who are drawn to the US by agricultural jobs do not remain long in the fields. Officials of the Colorado State Employment Service say it takes only three years for an undocumented agricultural worker to make the rural-to-urban transition.

Today, nearly 84 percent of the hispanic population lives in cities. By conservative estimates there are some 1.5 million illegals in the New York City area, 1.3 million in Los Angeles, 415,000 in Chicago and 250,000 in San Francisco - the great majority of whom are hispanic.

The Justice Department's Community Relations Service reports that chicanos outnumber Indians in Utah, that Cubans can be found in great numbers in Elizabeth, N.J., and that requests for assistance are received from hispanics from such unlikely places as Burley, Idaho; Lancaster, Pa., and Omaha, Neb. Washington state has an estimated 80,000 Spanish-speaking people.

What draws them, of course, is the enormous gap they perceive between the society they flee and the one they expect to find. A sisal plantation worker in Yucatan makes \$15-20 a week, while almost any worker in the US can make that in a day.

Once here, they find themselves relegated through a combination of poverty and racism to the outer fringes of the social-economic scale, tipping it ever more radically out of balance by their sheer numbers.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the typical migrant worker earns \$3,324 a year, his life expectancy is

MOISES SANDOVAL is on leave as editor of Maryknoll Magazine to study Latinization in the US on an Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship.



PHOTO BY LEONARD COHEN

MCLEAN GARDENS

MCLEAN GARDENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

At what point is a building worth saving? When does something become significant enough to deserve landmark designation and thus preservation? We ask this because we are able to look around and see buildings and estates, which we think should be kept, marked for demolition and redevelopment. We ask this partly because of the recent controversy surrounding Tregaron. But we also think more contemporary construction—such as McLean Gardens—should be considered for historic preservation. This has struck some people as absurd, but we disagree.

First, Tregaron. It's a beautiful country estate, of 20 acres, in the midst of Northwest Washington. The owners, who have thought about selling it to a developer, don't agree with the community that it is a landmark. The result has been that the issues have become subjected to arguments about the prestige of the architect and the first two occupants of the estate. We say "subjected" because these arguments are of secondary importance. Something like Tregaron is worth preserving regardless of personalities and history.

We believe there should be more to historic preservation than just the importance of the architect and/or landscaper, or the fact that some notable might have been there at one time. It is not enough that a building is old or has somehow been made famous. Yet these are the prevailing criteria, because the concept is incorrectly focused by the terminology "historic preservation." Something should be worth preserving because it is a landmark, or significant, or visually distinctive. (We'd even say that things should be preserved simply because they exist, but that gets into a somewhat different subject.) These criteria are usually assessed on a regional or national basis: i.e., the Willard Hotel is both a Washington and a national landmark. However, these factors should also be viewed on a more local level—the neighborhood level. Tregaron is worth preservation because it is an important part of Cleveland Park.

The owners take their arguments a step further. They say that even if the buildings are "historic," certainly the grounds shouldn't be included in that status. This logic is tragic, and unfortunately it's not new. To be sure, buildings can stand on their own and be appreciated, like some of the old townhouses downtown, surrounded by tall glass and steel offices. Just as buildings add to or detract from their environment, so, in turn, does the environment add to or detract from them. Why talk about preserving buildings, such as at Tregaron, while stripping them of their setting?

We can make the same arguments with McLean Gardens. As an apartment complex, it does not have famous personalities and a long history to point to. However, it is more than just a bunch of buildings; it is a complete setting. Like Tregaron, it is a landmark in the cityscape of Northwest Washington. Its significance to the community can be quickly seen everytime another redevelopment proposal organizes opposition. McLean Gardens is also a significant example of garden apartment construction, designed by the Government to house wartime workers. It is a complex thoughtfully laid out, tastefully landscaped, and solidly built. But it is relatively new. And no one thinks of government architects and architecture as significant. These judgements are unfair. McLean Gardens architecture can stand on its own, and should be so judged. As for its newness, that is perhaps the worst of all possible arguments; we can't always wait for things to become old before deciding to save them for the future.

49 years and his children are more than twice as likely to die at birth as those of the general population. His family's chances of catching influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis or other infectious diseases are three times the national average.

Of the total hispanic population in the US, one of every four families has an income below the federal poverty level of \$5,450. One of every five hispanic children fails to complete five years of education, and nearly 40 percent never graduate from high school.

The unemployment rate for persons of Spanish origin is roughly twice that of the total US population, and three or four times greater in some areas. In a study of the 106 largest corporations in the Chicago area, Professor Russell Barta of Mundelein College found hispanics and blacks "virtually absent from the upper echelons of management."

Though some gains have been made in recent years, the profile remains much as Bishop Patrick Flores describes it for Mexican-Americans, whom he divides into three classes.

The first, comprising fewer than five percent, has succeeded in education and business and joined the American middle class, having severed their ties with their own people.

The second class, comprising some ten percent, include those who fought in Vietnam

(where hispanos were the most decorated ethnic group), returned home with a renewed cultural pride, continued their education and remained in the barrios where they work to improve social, educational and economic structures.

But the third class consists of 85 percent of the people, those who were the peones of Mexico and who, though some have been in the US for generations, have seen little or no change in their lives.

"For years and in every area," says Bishop Flores, "they have toiled under conditions and handicaps unknown to others who have been more fortunate. Not only are they not catching up, but every day they are falling further behind."

The worst off of this class are the Puerto Ricans, whose median income per family is actually falling in relation to the general population. According to the Civil Rights Commission, Puerto Rican family earnings fell from 71 percent of the national average in 1959 to 59 percent in 1974.

Apart from the poverty they bring with them, the illegal immigrants are prone to the creation of poverty here by their willingness to accept any job at almost any pay. And, as more and more immigrants arrive in the cities, more and more urban jobs disappear to the suburbs. New York, for instance, has lost 542,000 jobs since 1970.

The resulting competition for jobs is fierce. Hispanic construction workers

in the Denver area say they are losing jobs to undocumented immigrants who accept \$2.50 an hour for jobs that pay up to \$9 an hour on the union scale. Some workers choose to go on welfare rather than accept such low pay.

Consequently, the hispanic is blamed for a host of America's economic and social problems despite evidence showing he actually contributes more to the system than he takes from it.

But somehow, the feeling persists in America that the Spanish-speaking people have not played by the rules by not forgetting their language and traditions and by not blending indistinguishably into the social fabric.

In fact, the hispanos have never had the option to merge into the American mainstream. Even the earliest hispanic settlers in the Southwest realized, following the conquest, that they were to be "foreigners in their own land," as legislator Don Pablo de la Guerra observed in 1856.

Since then, the drift of relations between the dominant culture and the hispanic people has been toward either liquidation or isolation. Just as the American Indian was isolated on the reservation, the Hispanics were relegated first to the colonia, and today to the barrio.

The roots of that isolation were and continue to be racial, economic and, as historian Kevin Starr has phrased it, "the

flotsam & jetsam

SOME of those who shared the struggle with Martin Luther King Jr. seem to have missed the point. History is never right. We always stretch or squeeze it to make it serve today's purposes; we filter it through the lens of our present vision and adjust our memories to fit current objectives. When we debate the past we are often really talking about now.

The historian, attempting to recreate the truth, is as tortured as the reporter seeking contemporary objectivity. The prejudices and distortions are not removed; they merely hide in a forest of facts.

Writers or dramatists who borrow from history are about a different business. They do not seek to revive history but to give it a second life. They know that Mark Antony never talked like that but also that what he actually said was not as enduring as what Shakespeare said he said. Perhaps that's unfair to Mark but the truth is that there have been few figures in history since Jesus that we remember (or even occasionally read) more than brief snippets of what they said. We remember what we are told to remember of them.

Writers and dramatists use history because they want us to remember something more than what we are taught in school. They want us to remember not only the facts but the feelings.

We forget feelings quickly. A whole generation is rising without the feelings of what it was like to face forced participation in a war no one could explain. To see the myths of our country disintegrating in rice paddies thousands of miles away. To have formerly unquestioned truths seared by napalm. To see those clinging to those truths imprisoned or abused for doing so.

There are few reminders of Vietnam anymore. Our wounded veterans are discreetly repaired or sequestered. Our walls are not pockmarked with shrapnel concus-

sions. We don't pause formally in our business to think about it, even for a moment. It is gone except for what the writers and moviemakers will tell us and what we will tell each other of what we remember from then.

It's taken a long time for the movies to come, but we should welcome them, the good and the bad, because however individual ones may skew the facts, together they help us retain the memory of the feelings.

We could forget King, too. Not officially forget him, not with Martin Luther King Jr. libraries, schools, avenues and days. But there's a difference between memorializing and remembering. What we could forget is how it felt then. And not just for the participants but for those affected by them.

When the television documentary "King" was aired last month, the reporters went to the participants and found considerable criticism. Dates were wrong, roles were inflated or suppressed, whites were made too important. An exception was Coretta King who said, "'King' is a drama and not a documentary; therefore it should be judged as such."

Some of the criticisms made sense, some seemed political, and some were a little strange - like the concern expressed by several of King's colleagues that he had been portrayed as having fears and doubts - a "coward" was the way Ralph Abernathy put it. Courage without fear and doubt is not courage but a pablovian reaction or foolhardiness, certainly not a sign of grace or wisdom. I hoped Abernathy was wrong; otherwise it denigrated the man's greatness, suggesting a desensitized drill sergeant of goodness, rather than a brave human of examined virtue.

The criticism sent me back to King's first book, "Stride Towards Freedom." I was relieved to find that King at least was not afraid to confess uncertainty:

I had only twenty minutes to prepare the most decisive speech of my life. As I thought of the limited time before me and the implications of this speech, I became obsessed by fear. . . . I was now almost overcome, obsessed by a feeling of inadequacy.

That Monday I went home with a heavy heart. I was weighted down by a terrible sense of guilt. . . .

I almost broke down under the continual battering of this argument. I began to think that there might be some truth in it, and I also feared that some were being influenced by this argument.

After two or three troubled days and nights of little sleep, I called a meeting of the executive board and offered my resignation. . . .

I was once more on the verge of corroding hatred. . . .

Discouraged, and still revolted by the bombings, for some strange reason I began to feel a personal sense of guilt for everything that was happening. . . .

King, it appeared, would only slip into the mold of macho history unwillingly.

It is unfortunate that the press could not reach the millions of people, white and black, who never marched with King yet were touched by him. The reaction might have been different. It was for me.

The series brought a part of my life rushing back with a vigor and urgency that was both thrilling and discouraging. Thrilling because it recalled a rare time when things were actually being set straight, discouraging because it reminded you that the time had passed. I don't know whether Martin Luther King went to Philadelphia, Miss., by himself or with a platoon of federal marshalls, nor do I care that much. I do care that some of the feelings of that time were regenerated and that a powerful, moving King had been recreated - no, not the same one, that is not a mortal privilege, but a substantial, complimentary vision, one that those who were not then born could look at and be moved and you, if you wished, could add, "Yes, and in truth, it was even more."

I don't remember the first time I noticed King. But I bought a copy of "Stride Towards Freedom" sometime in the late fifties. It affected me a great deal, especially the sixth chapter in which King describes his pilgrimage towards non-violence. I had only recently graduated from a Quaker high school, half impressed by and half cynical of the experience. Now I had left the peaceable kingdom of the Friends for the oscillating values and tumult of college and King's book proved more than an introduction to the civil rights movement. It helped straighten out messages I had received about a lot of things, but had never quite understood.

Pacifism and non-violence for one. The Quaker concept seemed a bit mushy for me. I was too lusty and too enthralled by politics to think that simply being good and not bopping people on the head was a sufficient approach to life. King helped explain it in new terms: "My study

perennial American contempt for the Latin way of life..."

In addition to being non-white, the Mexican-American blends what the white American has most feared: racial mix. He represents a merger of Indian and Spaniard, whose features were already darkened by the blood of the Moors.

Yet it is this very mix, the "richness of their own inner destiny" in Dr. Jorge Lara-Braud's words, which has also stirred hispanics in recent years to see themselves as a people of worth and destiny. Since the movimiento of the mid-60s, the hispanic people in America have experienced a re-birth of cultural pride, and improved sense of unity as a people and a determination to gain cultural acceptance without penalty. Despite the poverty, the Hispanic today sees his culture not as a hindrance, but as a national asset.

And in fact, to a limited extent the "Latinization" of American culture has already begun. We see it particularly in the Southwest, but everywhere there are little signs - in music, in food, in religion. For hispanics do not fear closer harmony between cultures, so long as it is achieved through mutual respect for the history, traditions, rights and contributions of each group.

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ACTION NOTES

CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES (122 Md. Ave NE, DC 20002. 202-544-5380) is making available an index to the 52,000 pages of FBI/COINTELPRO documents released in November. The center has also opened a library for journalists and other researchers, which deals with intelligence issues. YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH with Ralph Nader's new sports consumer organization, FANS, by writing it at PO Box 19312, DC 20036

PERHAPS THE MOST DANGEROUS BILL NOW before Congress is S-1437, the criminal code revision that contains many serious flaws, including the potential of outlawing every strike, picketing or mass mass demonstration near a federal facility. It's old S-1 in drag, but now that some of the anti-press provisions have been dropped, the nation's media is downplaying the bill. You can find out more by contacting your local ACLU chapter.

THE UNITED FARM WORKERS have officially called off the strike against non-union grapes and lettuce and Gallo wines.

ENERGY SELF-RELIANCE is a collection of articles dealing with energy issues and is available for \$1.25 from Self-Reliance, 1717 18th St. NW, DC 20009.

ENROLLMENT DECLINING: COMMUNITY OPTIONS AND ACTIONS is a pamphlet on how various communities have dealt with the problem of declining enrollments and closing schools. From Lou Skiera, Center for Community Education, 522 N. Salsipuedes St., Santa Barbara, Ca 93103.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS: New biweekly dealing with important developments in neighborhood technology. For info write: Neighborhood Works Information Service, 2040 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, Ill. 60201.

DID YOU KNOW that you can use old vegetable oil for shoe polish? How to start a co-op? Those are just a few of the things discussed in the thick new issue of Humnaizing City Life (formerly Doing It) available for \$1.50 from PO Box 303, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

of Gandhi convinced me that true pacifism is not nonresistance to evil, but non-violent resistance to evil. . . Gandhi resisted evil with as much vigor and power as the violent resister, but he resisted with love instead of hate."

He read Niebuhr's criticisms of pacifism, which he rejected in part but noted:

"Niebuhr has extraordinary insight into human nature, especially the behavior of nations and social groups. He is keenly aware of the complexity of human motives and of the relationship between morality and power. . . . While I still believed in man's potential for good, Niebuhr made me realize his potential for evil as well. Moreover, Niebuhr helped me recognize the complexity of man's social involvement and the glaring reality of collective evil."

"Many pacifists, I felt, failed to see this. All too many had an unwarranted optimism concerning man and leaned unconsciously towards self-righteousness. It was my revolt against these attitudes under the influence of Niebuhr that accounts for the fact that in spite of my strong leaning toward pacifism, I never joined a pacifist organization. . . I felt then, and I feel now, that the pacifist would have a greater appeal if he did not claim to be free from the moral dilemmas that the Christian nonpacifist confronts."

His four pages on Marx also appealed to me. I had just been introduced to Marx and thought, unlike college students of a later generation, him dreary and opaque. I found it difficult to understand how revolutions had risen on his words. My classmates who were interested in Marx I found somewhat dreary and opaque as well, but since they were getting better grades, I listened to them and tried to remember what they had said for my blue book. King approached Marx with curiosity and analysis and when he was through concluded, "My reading of Marx also convinced me that truth is found neither in Marxism nor in traditional capitalism. Each represents a partial truth. Historically capitalism failed to see the truth in collective enterprise, and Marxism failed to see the truth in individual enterprise. Nineteenth-century capitalism failed to see that life is social and Marxism failed and still fails to see that life is individual and personal."

So that was how Martin Luther King came to me. Not so much as a civil rights leader, but as a philosopher-friend, the first non-mushy pacifist I had met, helping me get through Marx. Not that civil rights and race wasn't important. I was

an anthropology major and that experience combined with a Quaker education to form a strong revulsion against the cultural myopia of white America. I knew from anthropology there was no scientific basis for segregation and discrimination and from the Friends I had learned there was no moral one either. But King synthesized wandering feelings, giving them a point - and words: "When a subject people moves towards freedom, they are not creating cleavage, but are revealing the cleavage which apologists of the old order have sought to conceal." Try to say that so succinctly when you're a sophomore.

Of course, King would touch me many times again though I never got any closer to him than the lawn of the chapel at Howard University when he spoke in 1959 or '60. There were too many people for the church so loudspeakers were mounted and we sat on the grass, moved but not fully understanding how much more we would be moved before it was over.

In the wake of his assassination, I almost lost him. King the leader still remained, but King the philosopher was discredited at every turn. The tough guys moved in, with their revolutions in the barrels of guns, actions that assumed that principles would follow, the conscious resegregation on new terms. Agape was for the white flower children; King was a Tom; and new leaders proliferated.

There was progress, yes. There was necessity too. Black nationalism was part of the unfinished business; there has to be some place to go as you rise. But there was a hollowness, too, because King knew that greatness was more than grasping. He wanted the fruits of the former as well as the latter and no one was quite saying it as well as he had or doing it quite as well as he had done. That he was no longer the man of his times was as much a reflection on the times as it was on him.

And now we've come to what marathoners call the wall. Twenty-odd miles out or twenty-odd years out, it's the same thing. Call it the wall, Post-Reconstruction, or weariness of the spirit. The fact is that the compulsion is fading, blacks and whites are settling in for the duration, glaring at each other across equal opportunity regulations, trying to make numbers do the work of movements and motivations, while a rising latino population attempts to squeeze between the two old adversaries.

The righteous flush of the militant sixties is fading as the limits of mono-

ethnic politics are reached. Blacks once again need allies, as do whites of common concerns. But the old style persists, so much so that when the NAACP wished to strengthen itself it went to Exxon and Mobil rather than seek a rapprochement with its former white constituency.

For whites who never asked to be read out of political and social alliance with blacks, but who have gone ten years igged, scorned, and excoriated while the hand of ethnic solidarity was played out, the old style persists as well. There are too many scars, too many insults delivered in the name of racial justice, for things to happen just the way politics or human nature would seem to suggest.

Yet it has to happen. The way we're going now we'll end up with the whites of the country electing a black president and he'll hate them and they will hate him. Justice will have become a technical matter, apart of the system, but as separate from our hearts as the Federal Reserve Board.

And that is a final reason why the production of "King" was so important: to remind us that there once was a different way, a way that could lead us from "the verge of corroding hatred."

It's not a question of old-style integration. Ethnic identity need not be challenged. It's a matter of the re-discovery of friendly turf, the reintroduction of decency as a value, a mutual regard for cultural differences and a mutual recognition of common aspirations. They're there; we're just - black and white - afraid to face them.

You see, I know it's true, because Martin Luther King told me. He said, "Something must happen so as to touch the hearts and souls of men that they will come together, not because the law says it, but because it is natural and right."

King was part of that something and as a result for many whites, including myself, he was the most important public figure of our lifetime. He was not only a great black leader, but an immense force among whites. As I watched "King," I could not analyse the accuracy of the scenes, the placement of the roles, nor did I really desire to. It was enough that a sufficient measure of the magnificence and humanity of the man came through the screen to recall vividly why it was so.

- SAM SMITH

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